



POLITICAL SCIENCE CAPSTONE COURSES

FALL 2012 (AY13) January 23, 2012

FP471A *Security Challenges in the Western Hemisphere.* Focuses on the threats in the Western hemisphere and how they impact U.S. security. Students will be required to analyze a particular challenge and to develop a creative and comprehensive policy response. Potential paper topics include transnational criminal networks, illicit trafficking, insurgent groups, the growing influence of external actors (e.g., Russia and China), and the spread of anti-Americanism in Latin America.(Chavez)

FP471B *Global Issues and National Security Threats.* The capstone will deepen midshipmen understanding of U.S. security policy, involving domestic/international actors, processes and institutions and, in particular, the use of hard and soft power. Topics include political, military, economic, non-state actors and legal implications of national security and global issues. (Class of 1960 Distinguished National Security Chair Ambassador Dobriansky)

FP471C *The Priorities of the Modern American Presidency.* Modern American Presidents are, in the words of Richard Neustadt, expected “to do something about everything.” As time is perhaps the president’s scarcest resource, a successful president must effectively prioritize goals. Our focus will be objective empirical analysis to evaluate the priorities of the people who hold the presidency – what they aim to do, whether they succeed, and why. (Doherty)

FP471D *American Empire.* The capstone will track the idea of an American empire, from Jefferson’s isolationist “Empire of Liberty” through recent neoconservative manifestos for geopolitical activism. We will compare American with Roman, British, French, and Chinese ideas of empire and consider empire as an electoral issue. (Wrage)

FP471E, *Quantitative Research in Political Science.* Builds on the empirical methods covered in the Methods Sequence, with a focus on advanced methods for causal inference in political science and hierarchical/Bayesian approaches to data analysis. In consultation with the instructor, students will be able to choose their own research topic to investigate using appropriate tools from their methodological toolbox. (Kellermann)

FP471G, *Instruments of Statecraft and Diplomacy.* The Instruments of Statecraft and Diplomacy analyzes the tools available to decision-makers in the pursuit of national interests and strategic objectives in this the second decade of the twenty-first century. (Curtis)

FP471H, *Transatlantic Relations and European Security under Challenge?* Addresses major issues in transatlantic relations focusing on the stated priorities of the alliance – terrorism/weapons of mass destruction/failing states – as well as Iraq and Afghanistan. Topics will range from Iraq to NATO enlargement to views of individual allied members toward relations with the U.S. or the development of European Security and Defense Policy to be pursued outside the NATO alliance. (Mattox)

Revised 7/2012